

this country, we used to push westward. That was our frontier. Now we push upward and explore the heavens.

I urge our colleagues to join Senator HUTCHISON and me in supporting this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FRIST. I announce that the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) would each vote Aye.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 30 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	DeWine	Lincoln
Alexander	Dodd	Lott
Allard	Dole	Lugar
Allen	Domenici	McCain
Baucus	Dorgan	Mikulski
Bayh	Durbin	Murkowski
Bennett	Edwards	Murray
Biden	Ensign	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Feingold	Nickles
Boxer	Feinstein	Pryor
Breaux	Fitzgerald	Reed
Brownback	Frist	Reid
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Roberts
Burns	Grassley	Rockefeller
Byrd	Gregg	Santorum
Campbell	Hagel	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Hatch	Schumer
Carper	Hollings	Sessions
Chafee	Hutchinson	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Smith
Clinton	Inouye	Snowe
Cochran	Jeffords	Specter
Coleman	Johnson	Stabenow
Collins	Kennedy	Stevens
Conrad	Kerry	Sununu
Cornyn	Kohl	Talent
Corzine	Kyl	Thomas
Craig	Landrieu	Voinovich
Crapo	Leahy	Warner
Daschle	Levin	Wyden
Dayton	Lieberman	

NOT VOTING—5

Graham FL	Lautenberg	Miller
Harkin	McConnell	

The resolution (S. Res. 45) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, in response to the resolution, I ask unanimous consent that we have a moment of silence, here and in the Galleries as well, out of respect for the astronauts,

their families, and the much larger NASA community who are mourning as we speak. A moment of silence, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The Senate observed a moment of silence.)

Mr. FRIST. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, we will now be proceeding to the Estrada nomination. To my colleagues, I simply report that a little bit later in the day we will be announcing whether or not there will be further votes today. Later today, in our wrap-up, we will talk about the plans for tomorrow and on Monday, but I would suspect we will be in session tomorrow morning until approximately noon and that we will be in session on Monday.

It is important that we have the debate and discussion that will begin shortly on this particular nomination which is very important to this body and to the country. We anticipate a very good discussion as we go forward. It will be active and we want to give plenty of opportunity for both sides to be heard as we proceed to debate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. ESTRADA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 21, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased that we have finally gotten to consider the nomination of Miguel Estrada to preside on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which has been pending before the Senate since May 9, 2001. I strongly support this nomination, and I hope we can vote on it soon. Also, I should say that I truly hope that news reports are inaccurate about efforts by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to engage in a filibuster of this nominee in an effort to deny him a vote by the full Senate. To defeat this nominee in this manner would be unprecedented and a real shame for this body.

As many of us who are familiar with Mr. Estrada know, he represents a true

American success story. His story can make us all proud to be members of this country, make us proud of our country. Born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, his parents divorced when he was only 4 years old. Mr. Estrada remained in Honduras with his father while his sister emigrated to the United States with his mother. Years later, as a teenager, Mr. Estrada joined his mother in the United States. Although he had taken English classes during school in Honduras, he actually spoke very little English when he immigrated. He nevertheless taught himself the language well enough to earn a B- in his first college English course. In a matter of years, he not only perfected his English skills, but he exceeded the achievements of many persons for whom English is their native tongue. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1983 from Columbia College, then magna cum laude in 1986 from Harvard Law School, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review. Those are really difficult achievements.

Mr. Estrada's professional career has been marked by one success after another. He clerked for Second Circuit Judge Amalya Kearse a Carter appointee—then Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. He worked as an associate at the law firm of Wachtell Lipton in New York City, one of the great law firms of this country. He then worked as a Federal prosecutor in Manhattan, rising to become deputy chief of the appellate division. In recognition of his appellate skills, in spite of the fact that he has a speech handicap, he was hired by the Solicitor General's Office during the first Bush administration. He stayed with the Solicitor General's Office for most of the Clinton administration. When he left that Office, he joined the Washington, DC, office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he has continued to excel as a partner. And everybody knows that the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is one of the great law firms of this country.

Most lawyers are held in high esteem if they have argued even one case before the Supreme Court. Mr. Estrada has argued 15 cases before the States Supreme Court. This is an impressive accomplishment by any standard, but it is particularly remarkable when you take two additional factors into consideration. First, as I have noted, English is not Mr. Estrada's native language. He has nevertheless mastered it to such a degree that he is considered to be one of the foremost appellate lawyers in our country. Second, his oral argument skills are even more extraordinary because, as I have mentioned, he has worked to overcome a speech impediment.

Despite this disability, Mr. Estrada has risen to the top of the ranks of oral advocates nationwide. People all over this country have admiration for him.

The legal bar's wide regard for Mr. Estrada is reflected in his evaluation